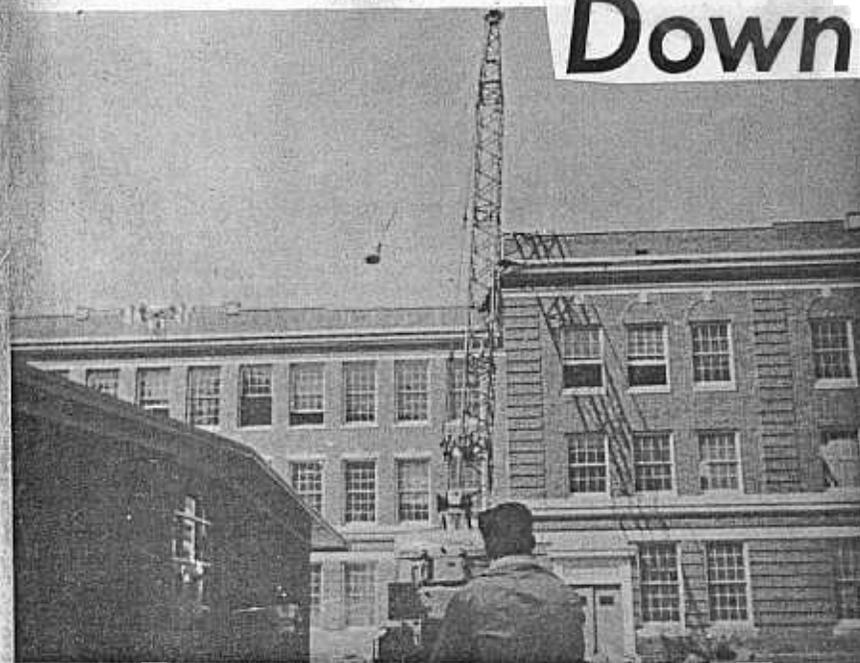


The Monroe Monitor

COPY

MONROE, SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON—THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1965

And The Walls Came Tumbling Down



FIRST TO FALL were Monroe High School's east and north gymnasium walls under the razing project begun Saturday to demolish and remove the 1930 and 1910 quake-damaged main facilities. Here Jack McFarland, far right, head of McFarland Wrecking Company, under contract for the razing job, talks to students who recall basketball games once played in the newly opened cavern.--Monitor Photo

A STEEL BREAKING BALL, 3,300 pounds heavy, makes a T-shaped cut in the building's west wall to ready falling of the 55 foot tall south gymnasium wall. The smaller building at left is the new high school annex, which, under the care and skill of workmen and Monroe firemen, came through the demolishing and subsequent burning around it with nary a scratch or broken window.--Monitor Photo



THERE SHE GOES said the crowd of onlookers and workmen alike when the south gymnasium wall collapsed in a pile of bricks after pounding and pushing by a huge four-in-one cat and the steel breaking ball. The ball, left foreground is almost as big as the little boy in flight. In the background at left of center is the high school entrance where workmen recovered the cornerstone laid by Monroe Masons in 1910.--Monitor Photo

AFTER THE DUST settled Monroe Superintendent of Schools Ernest R. Fox, Mrs. Fox and their son, Phil, head away from what is left of the building. Completion of the razing project may be finished this weekend, well ahead of the September 7 deadline. Returning high school students will be housed in the annex and vocational building and part of the Intermediate School while grades 7 and 8 will use the Intermediate School annex and portable classrooms currently under construction on the grounds.--Monitor Photo

And The Walls Came

NUMBER 29

Tumbling Down

With mighty blows of a 3,000 pound weighted steel breaking ball and the bite and push of a huge cat "four-in-one", the walls of quake-damaged Monroe High School rumbled and tumbled Saturday and were no more.

Heading the operation to raze Monroe's 1910 and 1930 main structures is Jack McFarland of McFarland Wrecking Company in Seattle.

He is a man of action. He and his crew of four began the demolition at nine in the morning smashing the east gymnasium wall. Early in the afternoon the north gym wall fell in a blast of dust that rolled across the street into the watching crowd.

Where the action was the people were and there was always an audience. Throughout the tumbling and subsequent burning Sunday night, students, teachers and passers by all came to watch and found it hard to leave again.

Some were sad and nostalgic, some were only fascinated with such a display of controlled and professional destruction.

They called to the crane operator, Don Morem, shouting, "Give it one for me!" and they cheered when the walls fell.

In mid-afternoon the breaking ball, swinging from its 80 foot boom held to the 30 ton crane, chunked away at supports to the south wall. The big cat pushed from inside and the crowd waited. It wasn't enough. Another half dozen swings of the pendulum and a final surge of force from the four-in-one and the south wall fell in a roar of bricks and mortar. The first day ended and so did the life of the school.

On Sunday, walls of the older 1910 facility were smashed, always to an audience. Members of the crew, Morem, Don Phillips, crane oiler, Bill Weaver, operator-loader, and Bill Johnson, laborer, were old friends to the crowd. Johnson especially pleased the picture takers when he rode the ball up and into the west wall area to hook on and carry off what looked like half a floor and ceiling.

By six Sunday evening the burning began and as flames colored the sky the crowd got larger. Local firemen engaged for control, Barney Kelley, Art Murdock, Babe Dennis and Ron Sherman, were joined by many others of the Monroe brigade who couldn't stay away.

The onlookers stayed until late Sunday when all that remained was a dying fire and a few brick sentinels in the ruins.

Though McFarland's deadline is September 7 he expects to be through as early as this weekend.

"A building half-wrecked is particularly hazardous" he said, and added that he would rather work his crew weekends and get through with a job than drag it out trying for salvage.

Rain this week cooled the fire of Sunday and lent itself to the dismal sight. Clearing continues and soon there will be nothing left but a shallow grave.

Monroe High School, born 1910, died August 7. Her ills were extended, her end was quick.

Workmen Find 1910 Cornerstone

The Monroe High School cornerstone, laid by Monroe Masons at the time the 1910 structure was built, was recovered from the south side entrance by workmen razing the building Saturday.

The cornerstone, a large granite block lettered 'Monroe Union High School - 1910' was presented by Ernest R. Fox, Superintendent of Monroe Public Schools, to Charles Hill, present master of the Masonic Lodge, for formal opening, but the inside storage container was found to be unsealed and full of water necessitating removal of the contents to see if they could be restored.

In the cornerstone box were three Monroe newspapers--two editions of the Monroe Monitor-Transcript dated September 16 and 23 for the year 1910, The Monrovia, dated September 23, 1910; a daily newspaper of the same period; several coins including an American two cent piece dated 1866, a Canadian one cent piece dated 1859, a Canadian one penny coin dated 1867 and another coin either French or Spanish, dated 1804; a Tacoma Railway and Power Company transit ticket and fragments of a statement headed 'Chas. F. Elwell Wholesale Retail Butcher'.

The September 23 Monroe Monitor-Transcript listed itself as being in its twelfth year, with H. D. Matthews as editor and

publisher and announced it was 'Republican In Politics'.

That edition of the paper included a front page story on the cornerstone laying ceremony which reads in part as follows:

"Charles Atkins, grand lecturer of the Masonic Lodge, deputized as deputy grand master, will lay the cornerstone of the union high school this afternoon at 2 p.m. The event will be

one of marked interest to the entire community and should be a memorable occasion in educational circles in this portion of Snohomish County."

The article went on to outline ceremonies including plans for an address by Mayor J. H. Campbell and remarks by County Superintendent Eva M. Bailey in a program lead by C. E. Ritchie, president of the Commercial Club.

According to the 1910 story other articles placed in the cornerstone, none of which was found, were a copy of the state law and lists of high school instructors and students.

No immediate decision has been made as to the disposition of the cornerstone contents, according to Superintendent Fox.